

27. WATER DEPARTMENT

27.01. Control by Public Utility Board. The water system belonging to the city is under the control and management of the public utility board of the city, and said public utility board shall have supervision, control, operation and management of the said water system subject to the provisions of the charter and of this code.

27.02. Superintendent. The public utility board annually shall appoint a superintendent of the water department and such other employees as may be necessary for the proper management and operation of said department. It shall prescribe the duties of the superintendent and employees and fix their compensation, and may require from the appointees and employees bonds for the faithful performance of their duties, the amount of such bonds to be fixed by said board.

27.03. Rules. The board shall make and enforce such by laws, rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the object and intent of this chapter and the charter relating to the control, operation and management of public utilities, which by-laws, rules and regulations shall be entered in a book kept for that purpose, and signed by the president and secretary of said board, which, when so entered and signed, shall be open at all times for inspection.

27.04. Water Rates. The board shall fix and maintain the rents and rates for water furnished by it so that the income derived from such rents and rates shall, so far as possible, in each fiscal year be sufficient to defray the cost and expense of the operation, maintenance and extension of the said system, and to maintain a reasonable reserve fund for use at any time in making repairs and extensions.

27.05. Water Distribution. The board shall regulate the distribution of water in all places for all purposes where the same shall be required for either public or private use, except as hereinafter provided. The city shall pay to said board, quarterly, out of the fire protection fund for hydrant rental, and out of other proper city funds for water for use in public buildings and places, such reasonable rates as may be fixed by said board, but no higher rate shall be charged there for than shall be charged to private persons. Said board shall also restrain and prevent, so far as possible, any and all waste of water, and may, for non-payment of charges for water or other cause, shut off water or take other action relating thereto that said board may deem proper and necessary.

27.06. Supplies and Contracts. All acquisitions, contracts, appropriations, expenditures, and the fixing of any officer's salary or employee's wages, by the board for the water department are subject to applicable provisions of the charter.

27.07. Transfers of Funds. The council may transfer money from the general fund to the public utility fund for the purpose of defraying the expense of any extension, improvement or enlargement of said system, and shall transfer money from the general fund to the public utility fund when necessary to pay for the running expenses or repairs of the said system. All bills against the public utility board incurred in the operation or management of said system shall be verified by the claimant or his agent. On or before the first day of each calendar month, such bills shall be audited by said board, and if allowed, shall be transmitted by the secretary to the city treasurer. The city treasurer shall thereupon draw orders on the city treasury payable out of the public utility fund for the several amounts. Said orders shall be signed by the mayor, attested and countersigned by the city treasurer, and a record thereof kept by the city treasurer as in case of all other city orders.

27.08. Accounting. The secretary of the public utility board shall be the bookkeeper and collector for the water department. Under the direction of the said board, the secretary shall collect

and pay forthwith into the city treasury all monies collected on account of the operation and management of the said system. The secretary shall keep a set of books which shall contain a full and complete statement of the condition and operation of said system, of all monies received by the board and paid over to the city treasurer; of all payments made for the account of said system; and of all monies due or owing to said board for any cause whatever, together with an accurate and detailed account of all the expenses of said board. The secretary shall also keep an accurate account of all purchases and sales, bills receivable and bills payable. The secretary shall, on the first day of each calendar month, make a monthly statement in writing to the council of the conditions and affairs of the water department which shall be attested by the president of said board and on the first day of April of each year an annual report shall be made to the council in like manner.

27.09. Approval of Council Required. No extension of water mains for either public or private use shall be made nor shall any water main or hydrant be permanently removed or discontinued, by said board without the approval or order of the council.

(222, 7/27/16; 2032, 3/20/79)